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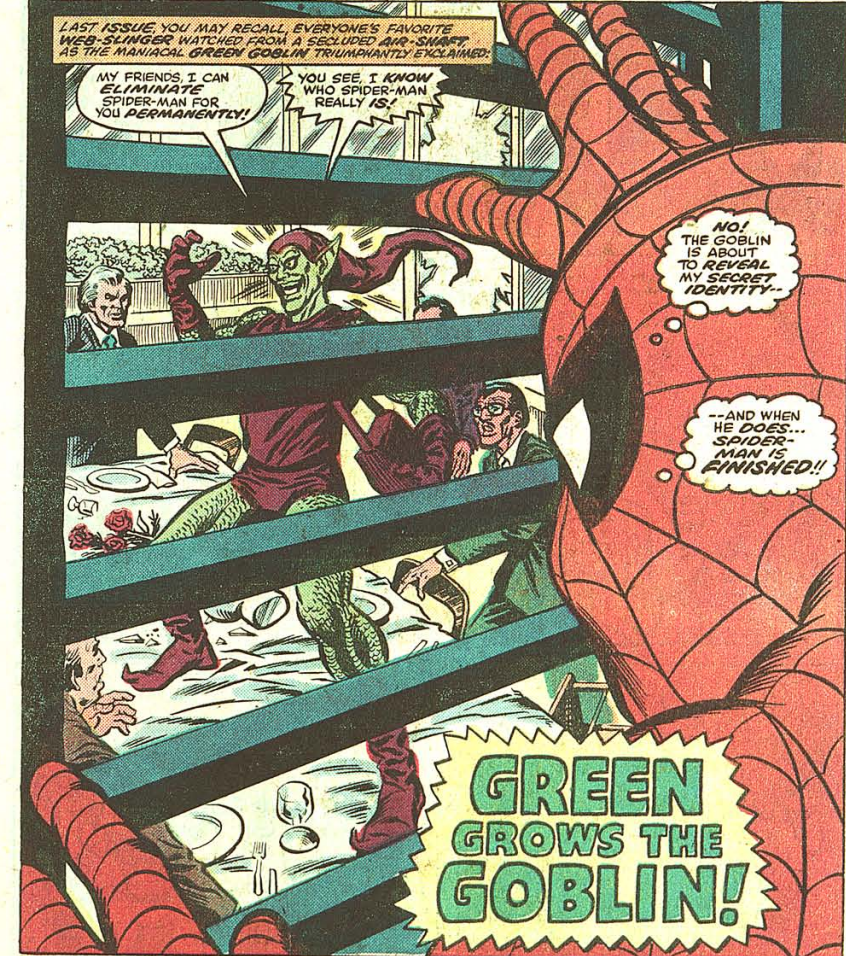
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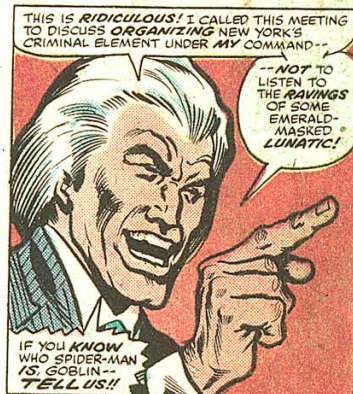
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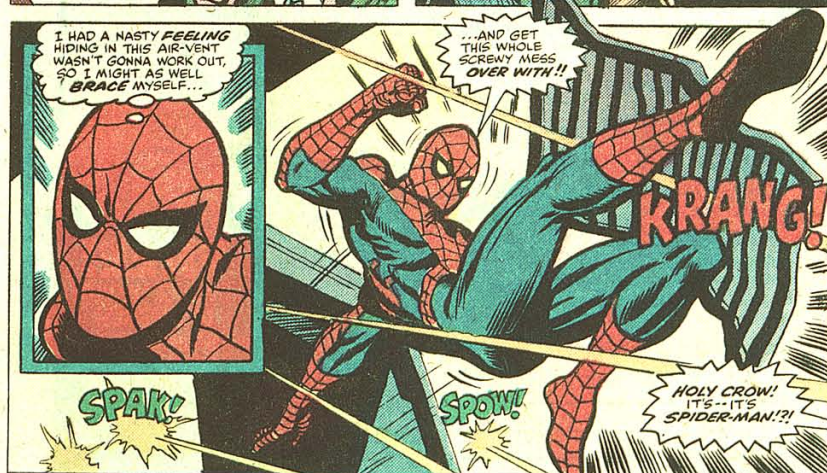
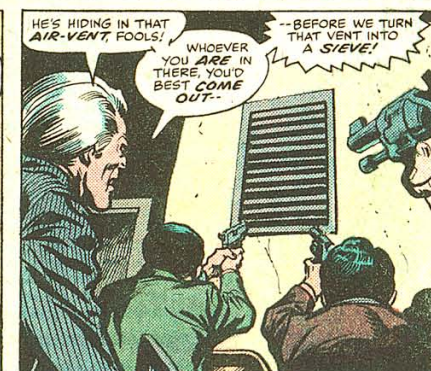
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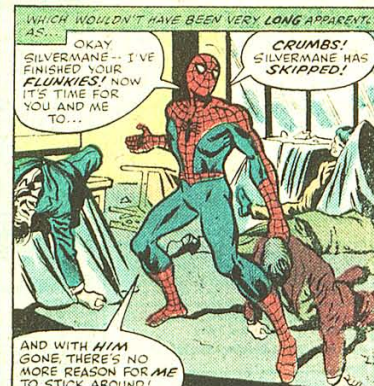
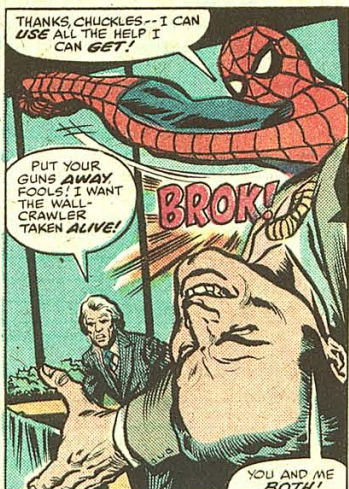
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WHILE UPTOWN, AT NEWHOPE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL...
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OH DEAR! TH--THERE'S STILL HOPE FOR HER... ISN'T THERE?



THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE, MA'AM. WE MAY ULTIMATELY HAVE TO PERFORM SURGERY--

-- BUT NOT, OF COURSE, UNTIL HER NEXT-OF-KIN SIGNS THE CONSENT FORMS!

THAT WOULD BE HER NEPHEW PETER PARKER! MY NIECE MARY JANE IS TRYING TO CONTACT HIM NOW!



TRYING IS THE WORD FOR IT, AUNT ANNA. PETEY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HOME STUDYING-- BUT NOBODY ANSWERS THE PHONE!

LORD-- NO!

WH--WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



THERE ISN'T MUCH WE CAN DO-- EXCEPT TRY TO FIND PETER! I'M GOING TO CHECK OUT HIS USUAL HAUNTS, AUNT ANNA!

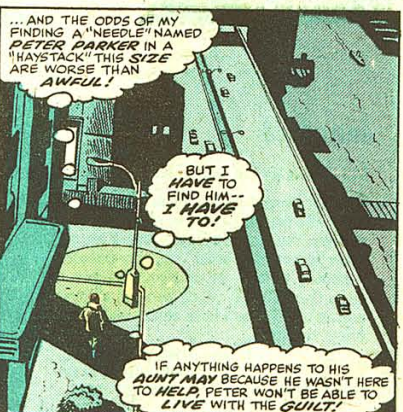
YOU STAY HERE IN CASE MRS. PARKER NEEDS ANYTHING!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, DEAR... AND GOOD LUCK!



TRUTH TO TELL, AUNT ANNA-- I'M GOING TO NEED ALL THE LUCK I CAN GET!

THERE ARE BETTER THAN TEN MILLION PEOPLE IN NEW YORK CITY...



... AND THE ODDS OF MY FINDING A "NEEDLE" NAMED PETER PARKER IN A "HAYSTACK" THIS SIZE ARE WORSE THAN AWFUL!

BUT I HAVE TO FIND HIM-- I HAVE TO!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIS AUNT MAY BECAUSE HE WASN'T HERE TO HELP, PETER WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH THE GUILT!



AND IN THE CHELSEA APARTMENT OF PETER PARKER, HERE MINUTES AFTER MARY JANE'S FRANTIC CALL...

NOT A PRAYER OF FINDING SILVERMANE OR THE GOBLIN AGAIN TONIGHT--

--SO I MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO GET SOME OF THAT STUDYING DONE!



GOBLIN, GOBLIN, GOBLIN...

FUNNY HOW I KEEP THINKING OF HIM AS THE GREEN GOBLIN AND NOT AS HARRY OSBORN--

--A POOR, DISTURBED GUY WHO NEEDS MY HELP A LOT MORE THAN MY PITY OR MY HATE!

OF COURSE IT'S NOT EASY TO REMEMBER THAT WHEN THE GUY IS TRYING HIS BEST TO KILL ME!



IN FACT, SINCE HARRY KNOWS I'M REALLY SPIDER-MAN, HE'LL HAVE TO COME HERE TO GET ME IF HE'S GOING TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO...

NOW WHO...?



EVENIN', ACE, MIND IF I COME IN?

MY PLEASURE, MS. GRANT. SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?



WELL, ACTUALLY, I FOUND THIS RECIPE FOR A CARROT MILK SHAKE AND I WAS WONDERING...

...IF I WOULD PLAY GUINEA PIG, EH?



WELL... WHY NOT?

AFTER ALL, IT'S HEALTH FOOD, RIGHT? HOW BAD COULD IT...

U.P.



WELL, PETE--HOW WAS IT?

LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY, GLORY--IT WAS... UH, INTERESTING.



THAT BAD, HUH?

'FRAID SO, FRIEND. IN FACT, IT'S DOWNRIGHT AWFUL!



WELL, BACK TO THE OLD GOOD BOOK? YOU HANG IN THERE, HOTSHOT!

YOU TOO, PRETTY LADY, TAKE CARE, OKAY?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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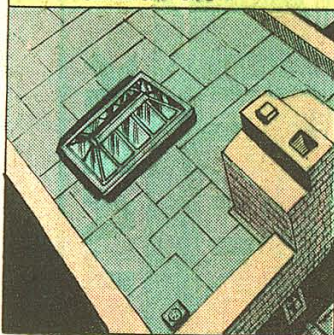
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BUT EVEN AS PETER GRABS A BICARBONATE AND TURNS BACK TO HIS BOOKS, WE'D BEST TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE ROOF OF AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE--



--WHERE WE CAN PEEK IN THROUGH THE BUILDING'S GRIMY SKYLIGHT--



--AND OBSERVE THE DESPERATE ACTIONS OF THIS UNFORTUNATE GENTLEMAN!

FOR SOME TIME, HE HAS FEARFULLY AWAITED THE GREEN GOBLIN'S RETURN--AND NOW, HALF-CONVINCED THE GOBLIN ISN'T COMING, HE DECIDES TO MAKE HIS MOVE!



AT FIRST, HE TRIES TO FREE HIS HANDS-- BUT SUCCEEDS ONLY IN DIGGING THE ROPES THAT MUCH DEEPER INTO HIS WRISTS!



THEN SLOWLY, AWKWARDLY, HE ATTEMPTS TO RISE TO HIS FEET--



...TOTTERS PRECARIOUSLY FOR A SEEMING ETERNITY--



...THEN PROCEEDS TO FALL FLAT ON HIS FACE!



IT IS AT THAT POINT, NATURALLY, THAT THE GREEN GOBLIN AT LAST RETURNS!



SO THEY DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT, EH?

THE FOOLS! I'LL SHOW SILVERMANE! I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!!

THE GREEN GOBLIN NEVER PROMISES ANYTHING! HE CANNOT DELIVER!!



WITH THIS BAG OF TRICKS SLUNG OVER MY SHOULDER, I AM THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH!

THERE IS NOTHING I CANNOT ACCOMPLISH-- NOTHING THAT CAN EVER BE DENIED ME!

AND YET, THERE ARE FORCES WHICH CONSPIRE AGAINST ME!

THE FIRST GREEN GOBLIN-- NORMAN OSBORN-- WAS A MASTER VILLAIN BEYOND COMPARE... BUT STILL HE WAS SLAIN BY THE INTERFERING SPIDER-MAN!*

I HAVE PLANNED FOR TOO LONG-- PLOTTED TOO CAREFULLY-- TO EVER ALLOW THE SAME FATE TO BEFALL ME!

*ACTUALLY, OSBORN WAS A VICTIM OF HIS OWN INSANITY, AS SEEN IN 'ISSUE' 122. --LEN



IF I'M GOING TO CAPTURE THAT CURSED WEB-SLINGER FOR SILVERMANE AND HIS FRIENDS, I MUST CATCH HIM UNAWARE-- STRIKE WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT!

MMPPHHMM!!



I'M MAD, DID YOU SAY?

PERHAPS, MY FRIEND... PERHAPS.

I SUPPOSE ONLY DR. BARTON HAMILTON WOULD KNOW THAT FOR CERTAIN--

--AND HE'S NOT IN ANY POSITION TO TALK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW...



...IS HE?

MMPPHHMM!!

SHAME ON YOU, MY FRIEND-- SUCH LANGUAGE!!



NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MY FRIEND-- I HAVE A SPIDER TO SQUASH!

OH, BY THE WAY-- PLEASE DON'T ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE AGAIN!

IF YOU DO, I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU!



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THE SPIDER'S WEB

50 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 515 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Spider-men:

Spider-Man #173 almost reminded me of the olden days in Spider-Man history. There were several contributing factors that gave me this feeling:

#1—Jim Mooney! Ever since Mike Esposito started inking the strip, the art seemed to be in a rut. Last issue, Frank Giacoia spruced things up a bit, and now — Mooney! Jim has inked some of the earliest issues, and is good for a change and a nostalgic feeling. Thanks!

#2—Spidey was wounded again. In the good old days, Spidey used to get hurt once in a while just to make things exciting, and it really helped out this issue. It seems that the more problems Parker has, the better the story is.

#3—the cover. John Romita was with Spider-Man when the strip was at its best, and it's always good to see him involved with it in any way.

There were some complaints, but they are so small that I won't mar this complimentary letter by commenting. In other words — congrats on another good issue!

Oh yeah—was that the Green Goblin I saw in Harry's eyes, on the second-to-the-last panel? Hmmm.

Ron Ward
2634 State
Granite City, IL 62040

We're tickled pink, so to speak, by your reaffirmation of Spidey, Ron. The only thing is, you've got our interest up in regard to those undisclosed complaints! After all, how are we supposed to produce the best possible Spider-Man sagas, without critical feedback from the loyal legions of Marveldom Assembled? We've never made a secret of the fact that we enjoy favorable fan mail... but we also appreciate the honest insight our vociferous following often has to offer, so never be afraid to venture your critiques, no matter how large or small. Okay?

And, again, thanks for the kind words, Ron!

Dear Marvel,

The truly nice thing about the Molten Man is that he has been handled as a sympathetic character. He is driven by the desire—not to kill, loot or destroy—but to be nothing more than normal. Whereas villains like Dr. Octopus, Dr. Doom or the late, lamented Green Goblin have been inspired by dreams of unlimited wealth, revenge and world domination, Mark Raxton's cause is just to be Mark Raxton. This is not a concept unique to the Molten Man, but it certainly is executed well with him. Desperation, I think, makes a much more ruthless, dangerously unpredictable adversary. If things don't go right for Doc Ock, then he falls back, recoups his losses and tries again another time. In SPIDER-MAN #173, the point was made and emphasized that Raxton didn't have another shot. He was fighting for his life, a normal life, and the gradual loss of this battle ultimately loosened a mental cog. I can't think

a more menacing countenance than the Molten Man's during his threats to the terrified lab technician; yet the same interplay, both before and after the "cure," highlighted the desperate schizophrenia and the extreme pathos and compassion of Raxton's cause. The character was handled so well, I'm at odds with myself as to his possible resurrection. It's intriguing to see something so different from your run-of-the-mill crime czars and would-be world tyrants, yet you've done the job too well! Mark Raxton was such a pitiable character, it would be a shame to not let him rest in peace. Ah, the paradox of success!

Michael Christiansen
704 S. Third Street
Rockford, IL 61108

That's it, John! Believe it or not, that's what must have happened: Spidey retrieved Liz's prodigal pump for her. Yeah, that's what must have happened! Gee, thanks, John—you're a whiz!

Dear Marvel:

It has become the thing in some circles to denigrate the current trend in SPIDER-MAN. However, Len Wein is doing a job on Spidey that almost equals the great Stan Lee days. Since he took over this book, there's been humor, pathos, excitement, characterization that builds on what's gone before, instead of pulling something out of thin air—all the things that were missing from these pages for far too long.

In the last two years SPIDER-MAN has been as consistently entertaining as any other comic book on the stands. Some of my favorite scenes have included Spidey and Dr. Octopus' slapstick fight to the finish against Hammerhead in #159, the Spider-Mobile menace in #160, the Kingpin's characterization in #164, Will-O-The-Wisp's introduction, Jonah Jameson's courtship of Marla Madison, Spidey being jumped by the two doctors in #173, the ferocious climactic fight against the Molten Man in that same issue—and, especially, the scene in #167 where Robbie Robertson chews Spidey out for meeting him outside his home. "If you want to talk to me in the future, mister—see me in the office, understand? Leave my private life alone." Simply beautiful. There are so many books where the supporting characters don't even seem to have private lives.

Even Ross Andru's art has gotten to me. I didn't like his work much, at first, but his stylized poses and knack for deep perspective have won me over.

SPIDER-MAN is simply a mainstream super-hero comic that's a hell of a lot of fun, and there's nothing wrong with that.

Jerome Wilson
4524 Kimmount Rd.
Lanham, MD 20801

AW, heck, Jerry—ya got both Lively Len and Rapturous Ross blushing! With delight at the frankly fabulous contents of your missive. Naturally, they're both gonna do they're blamed best to live up to your highest expectations—so be sure to check out next ish!

That goes for the rest of ya, as well! See ya soon, Spidophiles!

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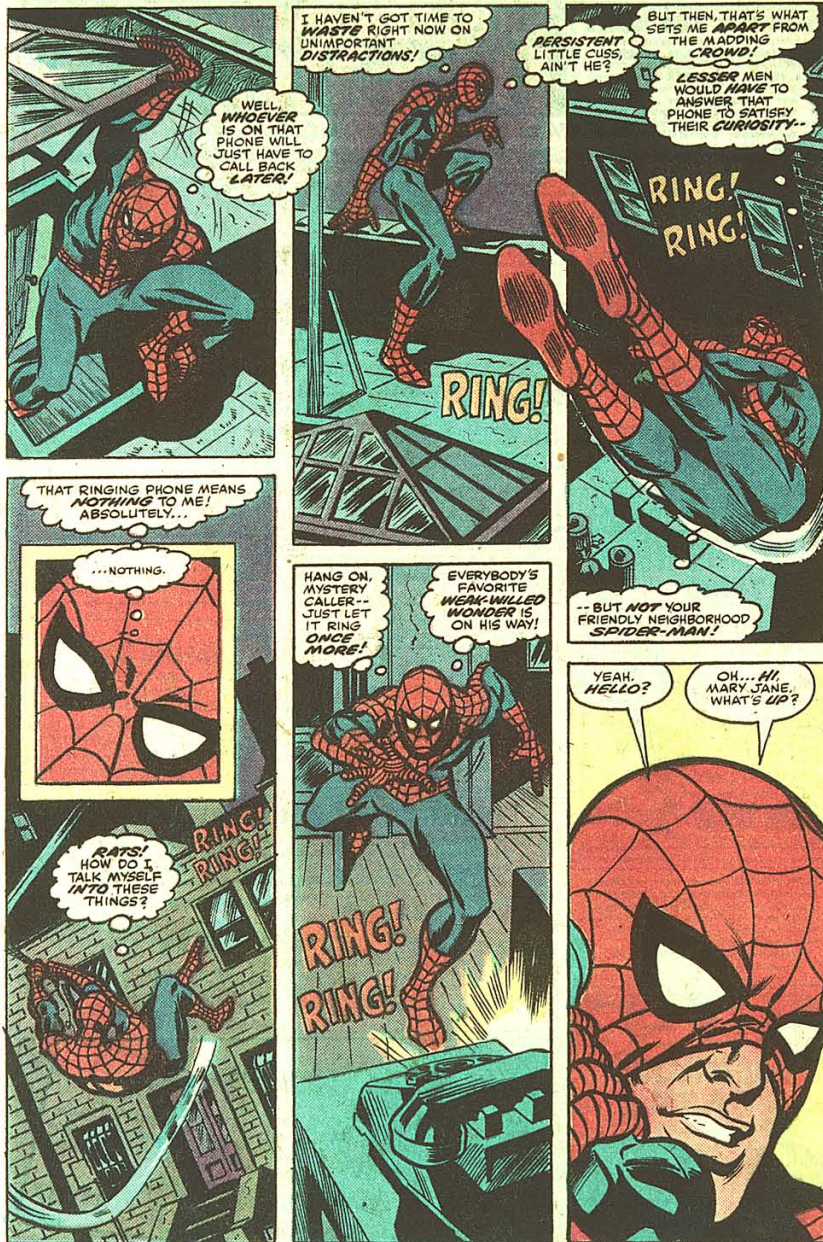
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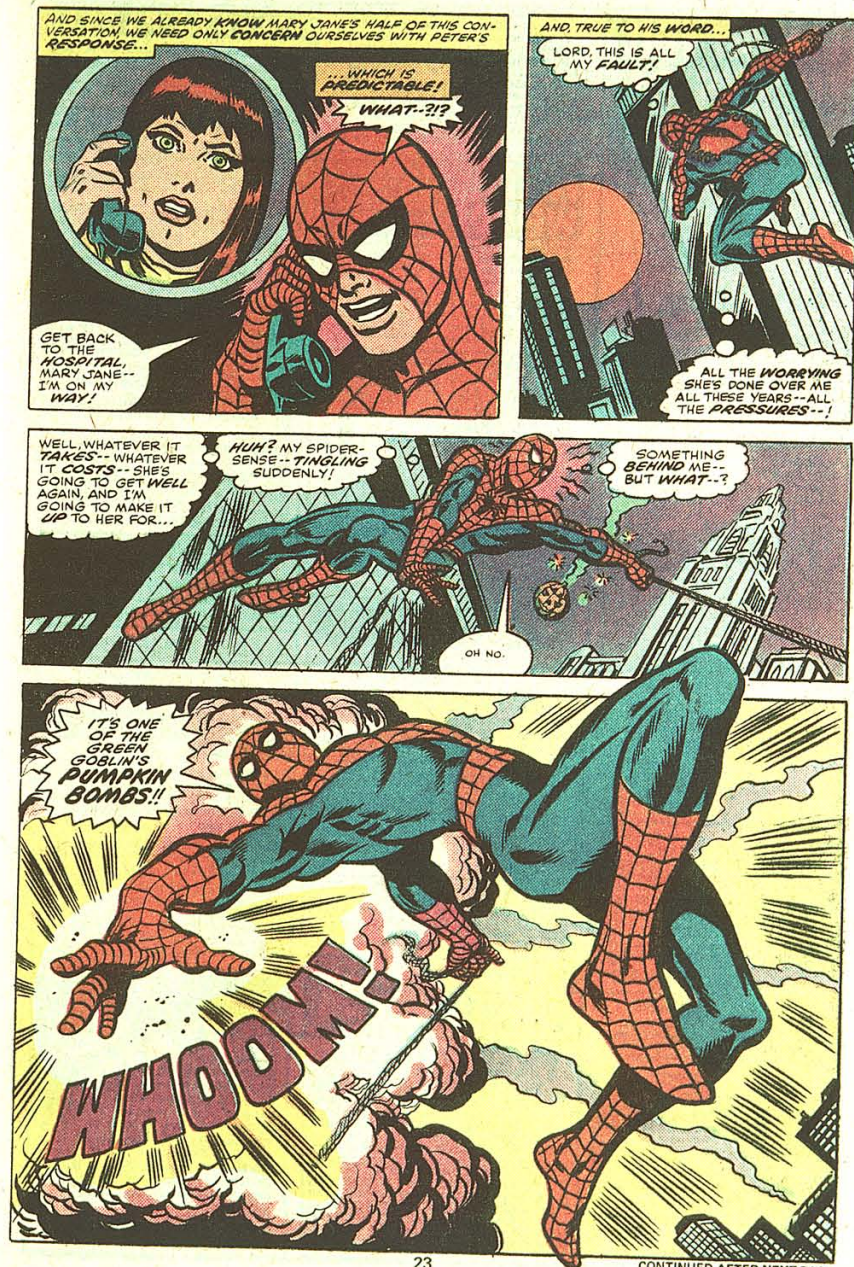
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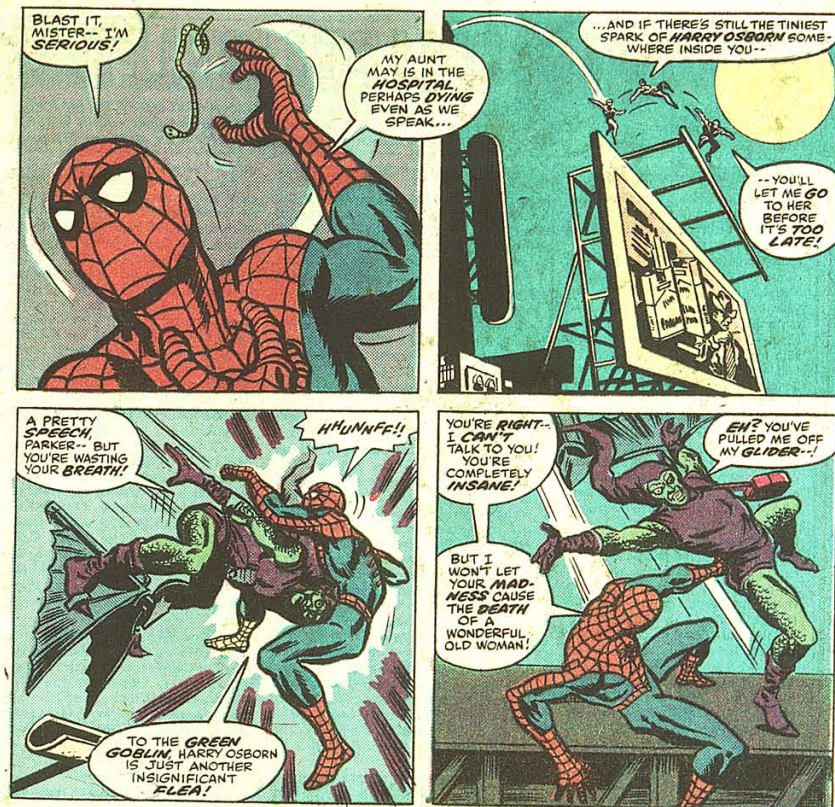


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MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

ARCHIE GOODWIN, Editor • JIM SHOOTER, Associate Editor • ROGER STERN, RALPH MACCHIO, JO DUFFY, JIM SALICRUP, Assistant Editors • ROY THOMAS, MARV WOLFMAN, STEVE GERBER, JACK KIRBY, Consulting Editors • JOHN ROMITA, MARIE SEVERIN, Art Directors • JOHN VERPOORTEN, Production Manager • IRVING FORBUSH, Corporate Non-Entity

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Many knowledge-hungry readers have asked what in the name of Irving Forbush do I talk about when I make my monthly pilgrimage to some defenseless college bringing a modicum of Marvel culture to the madly cheering masses! Therefore, in my burning desire to answer your every question—and because I can't think of anything else to write about—you're now about to be favored with a typical outline of one of Lee's Luminous Little All-Purpose Lectures! So let's begin before you get too choked up to read any further. I usually kick off with a brief outline of the history of mighty Marvel—how and why the whole nutty thing began. And, since I've got the world's worst memory, it rarely comes out the same way twice! Half the campuses in America probably have wildly conflicting histories of the growth of Marvel's greatness—but at least it keeps 'em on their toes! Then, we have some dizzy in-depth discussions of our cuddly costumed cavorters. We probe the psyches and gestalts of Spidey, the Hulk, Doc Doom, Howard the Anatid (in case you meet a guy who speaks only Latin!), and as many other of our legendary little lovebugs as time, and the audience's stamina, will permit. Next, we come to the really heavy stuff—namely, the philosophy of comics. We explore what's right with them and (gulp!) what's wrong with them; why Marvel has a furslugginger flavor all its own (sort'a like a ripe scallion); and what lies ahead for Marveldom Assembled. That's probably the most momentous subject of all, for as academia knows, as Marvel goes so goes the nation! (The world?) (The universe may be?) Finally, we segue into the grand finale, the part where the long-suffering audience can get its well-deserved revenge—the Questions-and-Answers period! This is the zingiest part for all concerned 'cause they can put me on the spot while I get my jollies by trying to worm out of it in my usual sneaky way! And there you have it—next to the secret of the Rosicrucians, probably the most sought-after info since the Silver Surfer divulged the name of his barber! And now, till J. Jonah Jameson slopes with Aunt May, have the merriest of Christmases, be good to each other, and always remember—Red Sonja will love you if you keep thinking Marvel!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! It's December and another holiday season, good people, so from every amiable armadillo and boisterous Bullpenner here at merry Marvel, the very best of Season's Greetings to you one and all!

ITEM! Just to prove we really love you all, we've come up with a holiday surprise package that we think will absolutely knock you on your mistletoe, namely the second of our MARVEL COMICS SUPER SPECIALS. If you caught our first one (which starred the rock group KISS), then you know to expect a deluxe magazine with radiant full color, high quality paper, and dazzling art reproduction. And if you've checked out the illustration on this page, then you also know the sensational subject of this Special, none other than everyone's favorite sword-swinging Cimmerian, CONAN THE BARBARIAN. Odds are that's enough to send most of you cogent comics cognoscenti stampeding to your nearest newsdealer, but for the doubters and diehards lurking about, we'll elaborate further. The magazine's main feature is a novel-length epic entitled: "Revenge of the Barbarian." It's based on a story by Conan's creator, ROBERT E. HOWARD, and adapted by the award-winning team of writer/editor ROY THOMAS and artist extraordinaire JOHN BUSCEMA. Adding their talents are Awesome ALFREDO ALCALA, who renders John's layouts to a fantastic finish, and Mirthful MARIE SEVERIN, whose hand-tinting craftsmanship brings new meaning to the words "full color!" In addition, there's a fabulous feature section (also in color) delving into the history of Conan in the comics as well as other awesome aspects of the sword-and-sorcery trade, and the whole prestigious package comes with a rip-roaring wraparound cover painting by Earnest EARL NOREM. All that... and it's yours for a mere \$1.50! MARVEL COMICS SUPER SPECIAL #2 featuring THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN. Don't miss it!



ITEM! If you think from the last item we're shooting our bolt on the holiday season and don't have anything left for the New Year... then you misjudge just how much we like to keep the excitement flowing your way, amigo, because on tap in January is a veritable landslide of landmark mag! First, there's SPIDER-WOMAN debuting in her own title; revamped, redesigned, and refined to a fare-thee-well from her MARVEL SPOTLIGHT appearance by MARV WOLFMAN, CARMINE

INFANTINO, and TONY DEZUNIGA into one of the most unique and uniquely exciting super-herosines to hit the scene. Then there's the fabulous fifth issue of POWER MAN, which hits you with a dazzling new direction as Luke Cage becomes partners with Danny Rand, otherwise known as IRON FIST. It's offbeat and outrageous, but we're betting it's the most winning combination since Starsky met Hutch. Last month we gave you the rundown on JACK "King" KIRBY's two new books, DEVIL DINOSAUR and MACHINE MAN. This month we're going to cue you that next month they're going to be on sale. A word to the wise should be sufficient... first issues, especially those by Mr. K, disappear fast! Finally, in our black-and-white magazine line, a new edition of MARVEL PREVIEW surges forth in January and features THE U.F.O. CONNECTION, a novel-length blockbuster of flying saucers, pyramid power, reincarnation, and a secret war with beings from the beyond written by DAVID KRAFT, drawn by HERB TRIMPE, and rendered by KLAUS JANSON. Editor ROGER SLIFER assures us it's all imaginary, but the way it ties in with some known facts and theories leaves us wondering... and experiencing a shiver or two definitely not brought on by the winter wind!

ITEM! One thing we always seem to have plenty of in the Bullpen is changes, and this time around is no exception. We're saying hail and farewell to Edifying ED HANNIGAN, who is abandoning his Assistant Editor's post for the rigors of becoming full-time penciler of the monthly DEFENDERS mag, and to Mellow MARY ELLEN BEVERIDGE, who departs as our Lady of the Fan Letters to take up the brush and Doctor Martin's dyes of a freelance colorist. Fortunately, ready to step into their places, respectively, are Slim JIM SALICRUP and Heavenly HELLEN KATZ. A whole lot of good luck to the lot of you in your new endeavors. On the free-lance front, let's say hello to Rebel ROGER MCKENZIE who has recently taken over the scripting of DAREDEVIL and GHOST RIDER, and offer considerable congratulations to Klobbering KEITH POLLARD, whose pulsating pencil work can now be seen on the FANTASTIC FOUR and IRON MAN comics. We're looking forward to bigger and better dazzlement from both these promising talents!

ITEM! A sad note: The passing of RON HAYDOCK, who contributed many articles to our black-and-white magazines of several seasons back, particularly MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES. He was a friend to many of us here at Marvel and his absence shall be felt.

ITEM! As usual, there's a lot to cover and always too little space to do it in. We didn't get a chance to mention the secret project that artist GEORGE "Pacemaker" PEREZ and scripter DAVID KRAFT are huddling together on, or those private planning sessions between STAN, CHRIS CLAREMONT, and DAVE COCKRUM over a certain super-heroine in Marvel's mighty line-up. Maybe next time.

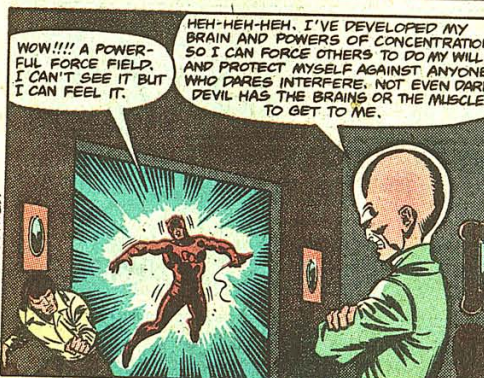
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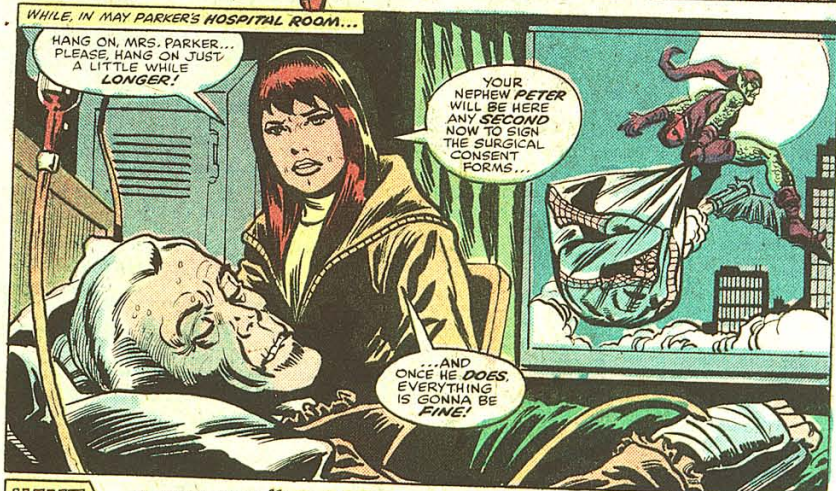


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Not Illustrated:
 K Boys Navy Blue Sweatshirt (\$5.50)
 L Mens Navy Blue Sweatshirt (\$6.50)
 M Darth Vader Button (\$1.00)
 N Darth Vader Keychain (\$1.50)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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If I tell my buyers all you need is the sun and the rain and a pack of American Seeds.
Terry Dicks
Minnesota

I can't feel confident in telling people how well they grow your garden, shows us each year.
Cathie Cooper
Pennsylvania

It's better than an allowance. I also bought my very own bike. Thanks to your American Seeds.
Dennis Gilligan
New York

Some American Seeds are the growing future of America.
Kim Jacobs
Connecticut

You can depend on American Seed Co. because they put seeds in you fast and the prize back fast.
Clifford Bruhn
Oregon

The packets are so pretty and colorful you can't wait what you're getting.
Tim Dwyer
Tennessee

The Company is so honest and people trust their reputation. American Seeds are everything they're advertised to be.
Philip Hosh
Tennessee

For 58 years American Seeds have helped you grow America.
Daniel Everett
North Carolina

Mom and Dad have told me I had to work if I wanted nice things in life. Selling American Seeds was an easy way.
Jery McDowell Jr.
Pennsylvania



INSTANT LOAD CAMERA



3-SPEED BIKES



MICROSCOPE SETS



ROLLER DERBY SKATES



ALL PURPOSE SHOES



POCKET CALCULATOR



MODEL ROCKETRY



COMPLETE ARCHERY SETS



AXE & KNIFE SETS



STOPWATCH



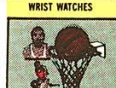
WRIST WATCHES



BIKE SPEEDOMETER



BASEBALL GLOVES



BASKETBALL & GOAL



TRANSISTOR RADIO



30-POWER TELESCOPE



4-PLAYER BADMINTON



TENNIS SET



CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER



CROQUET SET



SLEEPING BAG



NYLON MOUNTAIN TENT



COMPLETE FISHING SETS



VOLLEYBALL SET



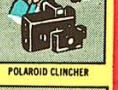
POLAROID CLINCHER



CHEMISTRY SETS



SWIM SET



GIRL'S TRAVEL CASE



PITCH BACK



JUNIOR GUITARS



SKATE BOARD/SKATE TAIL

MAKE MONEY GET PRIZES

with Fast Selling American Seeds

Take your choice of 100 wonderful prizes. You can earn as many as you want—quickly, easily. Many prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given **WITHOUT COST** for selling just one 45-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 45¢ a pack. Some of the larger prizes require more sales or extra money as explained in the Big Prize Book.

Send NO MONEY, We Trust You

Everybody wants American Seeds. They're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly to family, friends and neighbors. Many boys and girls sell their packs in one day. You can, too—and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep \$6.75 for every 45-pack order you sell. There's no risk; any unsold packs may be returned.

ORDER NOW Your Prize is Ready

Mail coupon in envelope today for your seeds and Big Prize Book—give the other coupon to a friend.

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35 N. Prince St.
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Lancaster, Pa.
17604

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MAIL ONE COUPON TODAY Give the Other to a Friend

AMERICAN SEED CO., 35 N. Prince St.,
Dept. 846, Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 45 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 45¢ a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ All Vegetable Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

\$6,400.00

Awarded in our
promptness con-
test in addition to
the prizes and
money you earn
selling seeds.

Complete information
is sent with your Big
Prize Book and seeds.